5   A METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR IMPLEMENTING LOCATION AWARE

INFORMATION ACCESS AND RETRIEVAL IN A WIRELESS PORTAL

SERVER

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

10   A method for using user location information to customize information in

a Web portal. The method includes the steps of receiving user location

information from a user, receiving a request for application specific information

from the user, selecting pertinent application specific information based on the

user location information, and transmitting the pertinent application specific

15   information to the user. The method is implemented within a client/server

framework. The client device can be a portable handheld device such as a

cellular phone or a wirelessly connected PDA (personal digital assistant). The

user location information can be received in accordance with WAP (wireless

application protocol) communication standards. The pertinent application

20   specific information can be transmitted to the user in accordance with WML

communication standards. The user location information can be a current

address, can be a zip code, or can be geographical coordinates of the user.

Application specific information of the user can be calendar information and

the pertinent application specific information can be information regarding the

25   location of calendar events with respect to the user location. Similarly,

application specific information can be hotel information, and the pertinent

application specific information can be points of interest near the hotel. The

user location information can be associated with a location name, wherein the

user selects a particular location by selecting a particular location name from

30   a menu of location names presented by a portable handheld device.